

RANK ORGANISATION REPORTS RECORD HALF-YEAR PROFITS

THE RANK Organisation reports record sales and profits for the 28 weeks ended 13 January 1968.

PROFITS BEFORE taxation were £14,755,000 compared with £10,589,000 in the first half of 1967.

IN SPITE of the increased rate of taxation, net taxed profits were increased to £3,420,000—30 per cent over the figure of £2,604,000 for the corresponding period last year.

AFTER DEDUCTING Preference dividends, earnings per Ordinary and "A" Ordinary Share for the half-year were 11.1 pence against 9.3 pence last year.

SALES AT £101,163,000 compare with £87,558,000 for the same period last year.

THE DIRECTORS have declared an Interim Dividend of 9½ per cent (5.7 pence per share). The 1967 Interim Dividend was 9 per cent (5.4 pence per share).

COMMENTING ON the results, Mr John Davis, chairman and chief executive, said that in the Annual Report issued last September, he indicated that in his view Rank Xerox would continue to make massive growth in the current year and the non-Xerox activities would produce profits approximately equal to those of the year he was then reviewing.

"I AM pleased to say that both forecasts have been realised and that in the case of the non-Xerox activities we have done somewhat better in the first half of the year than I anticipated.

"WE BELIEVE we will maintain our progress in the second half of the year. It is a little difficult to forecast with confidence until the effect of the recent Budget introduced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer is known, but I would hope that the results for the full year show a level of increase above last year's profits comparable to the improvement achieved in the first half of the year."

THE ORDINARY and "A" Ordinary Shares in issue at 13 January 1968 were 64,832,000 compared with 56,036,000 at January 1967.

The Interim Report for the 28 weeks ended 13 January 1968 (with comparative figures for the 28 weeks ended 7 January 1967 in brackets) shows:

Sales: The Rank Organisation other than Rank Xerox, £61,715,000; Rank Xerox, £39,448,000; total, £101,163,000 (£58,077,000; £29,488,000; £87,565,000).

Profit before interest payable and taxation: £13,606,000; RX, £14,184,000; total, £17,790,000 (£3,346,000; £10,417,000; £13,763,000).

Interest payable: RO, £1,287,000; RX, £1,748,000; total, £3,035,000 (£1,673,000; £1,501,000; £3,174,000).

Profit before taxation: RO, £2,319,000; RX, £12,436,000; total, £14,755,000 (£1,673,000; £8,916,000; £10,589,000).

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FPA CONCERNED AT SET DELAY: 'INTOLERABLE'

The Film Production Association considers it intolerable that remedial action has been so long delayed on the position of the film production industry in relation to Select Employment Tax.

At its next meeting on 1 May, the FPA Executive Committee will decide on the further action to be taken if the Ministry of Labour Review Committee has not reported by then and has not recommended a rectification of the injustice done to film production.

The Executive Committee, at its

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BIG DOLLAR EARNING DEAL BY HAMMER FOR SERIES FOR USA TV

BRITAIN has again broken into the American television field with a first—a new series to be produced here and to go straight into prime time in the autumn in the States.

AS A START seventeen one-hour films under the overall title "Journey To The Unknown" with a potential earning capacity of "hundreds of thousands of dollars" will be made under a three-way deal concluded between 20th Century-Fox, ABC TV of America, and Hammer Films.

THE FILMS, to be in colour, will be made by Joan Harrison, as executive producer, on behalf of 20th-Fox, and Tony Hinds representing Hammer Films.

WILLIAM SELF, President of 20th-Fox Television, said on Tuesday night that the 17 episodes was "a minimum commitment; we hope to make twenty-six hour shows a year; the dollar earning figure could be enormous, going into millions.

COL. JAMES CARRERAS, chairman of Hammer Film Productions, said they had a short time in which to achieve their first schedule of 17 by the opening date on ABC TV in America of 23 September. The series will be screened weekly and with production commencing immediately it would necessitate shooting two at a time.

They were, however, still negotiating for studio space with the ideal condition of enabling

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FPA AND CFC REVIEW

After making a brief survey of the CFC's review of films legislation at Tuesday's meeting, the FPA Executive Committee is to study it at the next meeting.

"This is obviously an important document," commented FPA director Andrew Filson. It had appeared after the EC agenda was issued and it was decided not to have a very detailed report at that meeting.

UA expect highest ever billings in UK operation on current 12 months

UNITED ARTISTS concluded an exciting and inspiring two-day Sales Conference in London last Saturday, hosted by managing director K. Winkles, after the company's men in the field had been given an outline of future activities and a chance to inspect UA's new headquarters at Mortimer House for the first time.

The Park Lane and Berners Hotels were the venues for the get-together, where the sales and publicity personnel discussed the campaigns for a wide range of products. Among the films singled out for detailed discussion were "Around The World In 80 Days," "Charge Of The Light Brigade," "Chitty Chitty

Bang Bang," "The Graduate" and "The Devil's Brigade."

To make the delegates fully aware of the potential in UA's 1968 distribution line-up, screenings were held at the Warwick Theatre. Among the films shown were "The Devil's Brigade,"

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Albert's a pinta person

It's a pinta a day for AB-Pathe's lusty off-spring, Albert.

And Mick Curtis of Crawfords *naturally* selected Albert's Hugh Gladwish to direct the striking new series of commercials for Milk (not surprising when you remember the creamy job Hugh Gladwish did on the first pinta series).

Shouldn't your next commercials draw creative nourishment from Albert . . .

AB-Pathe's inventive new company-within-a-company? Hugh Gladwish, Jimmy Hill, Peter Whitehead are three amongst the array of directors at Albert's command . . . and yours.

Phone Yvonne Charpentier or Ben Lenthall: 437-0444

Commentary

By Observer

THE DAY of the automatic cinema must seem to be close upon us as major groups within the industry promote different systems of electronic know-how for operating the entire process of film presentation at the touch of a button.

ALTHOUGH they have yet to put their own developments in this field into practical use, the "boffins" responsible for producing an efficient and effective box-of-tricks for Associated British Cinemas are within reach of their goal. They told me at a Mark I demonstration recently that the completion of required Mark II equipment depended only on so many weeks of work being possible away from more urgent duties related to other pressing matters affecting television.

FOR, it was in the latter part of 1965 that ABC asked the development group of ABC Television to start probing the matter.

THE TECHNICALITIES of what they have so far achieved have already been reported to the BKSTS but, in simple terms, it seems obvious from the compact nature of the equipment they operated in a West End demonstration room, they have developed an electronic brain that can store information and respond to impulses in which the projected film affords essential codes.

THE THINKING behind this particular development as shown to me by **G. E. Fielding**, Consultant to ABC, with its developers, **Doctor Boris Townsend**, head of engineering research at Teddington and **Norman W. Green**, systems design engineer, is that certain processes in a cinema can be equally as effectively operated from individual pre-set timing as, for example, the boiler room equipment.

THE FILM presentation would be controlled from strips of foil placed on the film itself and coded according to the number of sprocket holes around which it passed. This cues a routine clock unit which times the various programme processes set out by pegs on a routine matrix.

AT THE INTERVAL, when no cues can be taken from the film, an additional clock would be set in motion by a cue from the film. It can programme up to five routines during the interval and restart the cinema programme when required.

FLEXIBILITY is afforded in the event of emergencies which necessitate a variation in the routine and while, for example, the interval period can be lengthened by a hold button which inhibits the clock, the whole panel can be taken over manually at any time during the programme.

SO FAR the equipment has only been used in a private viewing theatre where a complete programme was made up. It was claimed that the demonstration programme was run on some 75 occasions without failure of any part of the cue detection system.

THE MARK II will have a kind of double check on the cues by which identical codes staggered on opposite sides of the film will overcome the problem of stray pulse pick-up. In the event of different signals being received by the machine an alarm system will notify the projectionist who can check whether the correct routine is being performed. If it is not, he will take over manual control.

INDEED, it seems clear that whatever the extent of automation—and to gain maximum advantage non-rewind projectors with a Xenon light source would be essential—the attendance of fully qualified operators will be essential though, in the main, their duties will not be so arduous. It would seem to afford more time to devote to perfection of detail in presentation with benefits to be appreciated by owners, management and audience alike.

HOW SOON this equipment could be ready for its first practical cinema demonstration by ABC is, as I have indicated, uncertain although those who are perfecting it are confident that, given the time, it could be achieved within a few months. REFINEMENTS of this kind are inevitable but for the paying customer it might be said he won't mind how the film is shown so long as the show is good in every way!

● Something like a gathering of 160 was expected at the annual dinner and dance of the Yorkshire branch of the CEA at the Parkway Hotel on the outskirts of Leeds on Tuesday night. It was a fine dry day, genial warm sunshine in the afternoon and everybody was looking forward to a fine evening, but in the late afternoon a heavy snow cloud formation and a bitterly cold wind set in and suddenly a perfect blizzard descended on Leeds and on the whole of the West Riding. By 5 o'clock the city centre streets were an inch or two deep in snow, cars were snow covered as though they had been out all night and pedestrians hurrying home in cars and buses looked like snowmen.

That prospect changed the outlook for an evening out and particularly for the homeward trip at one a.m. However, that did not deter about 150 people assembling at the Parkway and being received by the chairman of the branch, **E. F. Johnson**, and his wife. The dinner went off with its usual jollity and everybody appeared to enjoy themselves, particularly when they found that the blizzard had rather petered out and that the roads were more slush than snow.

There were, as in recent functions, no speeches particularly, except the chairman welcoming the guests from London, the national president and his wife and the general secretary, **Bob Camplin**, with good wishes for the early recovery of **Mrs Camplin** from the distressing effects of a displaced disc. This welcome was, of course, extended to **Kenneth Winkles** and his

DATE TO KEEP

THE ANNUAL General Meeting of the CTBF will take place at the Piccadilly Hotel, London, on Tuesday 25 June. As in past years a luncheon to be presided over by **Sir Philip Warner**, president of the Fund, will follow and tickets, which include gratuities and wine at the table, will be 50s. An announcement will be made when these are available but this will enable any member of the industry who wishes to attend to note the date in his or her diary.

wife, **Morris Young**, **Alfred Jarrett**, **J. Woolley**, **Tony Tenser**, **Frank Whitman** and, last but not least, **John Adley**, to name only a few of the visitors from London.

Harry Roelich, responding on behalf of the guests, said he missed a few familiar faces and particularly that of the veteran **Charles McCaffee**, while on the other hand he was glad to note that his old friend "Snack" **Hyde** was present. **Jack Bennett** of Paramount (Leeds and Newcastle) acted as MC at the dinner and for the rest of the evening members of the dinner and dance sub-committee, **P. A. H. Bedford** (Lyons Maid), **J. D. Clark** (Odeon, Leeds), **A. Jackson** (United Artists) and **K. F. Matthews** (Rank Organisation) ensured that everybody was happy and that the evening went with a swing.

● **Peter Reed** reminds me that Paramount's southern administration department has moved to Cap's House in Carlisle Street, just round the corner. Any administration problems concerning London, Birmingham and Cardiff will be dealt with there, Regent 6536. All matters relating to sales should of course still continue to be referred to Paramount House in Wardour Street.

● All tickets for the Royal World Premiere of **Tony Richardson's** "The Charge Of The Light Brigade" at the Odeon, Leicester Square, on Wednesday 10 April have been sold. The charities which will benefit are the Army Benevolent Fund, the Ranfurly Library Service and the English Stage Society—to the sum of some £15,000.

There has been a waiting list for tickets for several weeks to



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FOX, ABC TV AND HAMMER IN ONE-HOUR TV SERIES FOR AMERICA



JAMES CARRERAS, chairman of Hammer Films, hosted a reception for the Press at the Dorchester on Tuesday to announce details of a deal concluded between 20th Century-Fox, ABC TV of America and Hammer Films to produce a series of 17 one-hour films for television, entitled "Journey To The Unknown." The films will be made by Joan Harrison as executive producer for 20th Century-Fox, and Tony Hinds, representing Hammer Films. The series will be made in Britain by British technicians, and the first subject is scheduled to be screened in America on 23 September.



1 Jock MacGregor of "Motion Picture Exhibitor," James Carreras, Bill Pay of "Motion Picture Herald" and C. H. B. Williamson of "The Cinema."



2 James Carreras, William Self, President 20th Century-Fox TV, Joan Harrison and Marty Starger, Executive Vice-President of ABC TV.



3 Shaun Usher of the "Daily Sketch" and Joan Harrison.

4 William Self with Brian Mulligan of "Variety" and Chris Reed of the "Sun."

5 Jack Bell of the "Daily Mirror" with Joan Harrison, executive producer for 20th Century-Fox.

COMMENTARY

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see the UA release make its bow before Prince Philip, top army brass, society leaders, stars and trade personalities. Among those representing the many famous regiments at the premiere will be a 21-year-old Gunner of the Royal Artillery; he is the grandson of the man who, on his Regimental Trumpet of fine silver, sounded the "Charge" which set the Light Brigade spurring their mounts straight at the mouths of the Russian cannon at Balaklava.

● Many people will remember **Frank Minns** who died a few months ago and who was a keen and enthusiastic member of the Cinema Veterans. At one time Frank was hon. treasurer of the Guild of British Projectionists, an organisation which no longer exists. For 30 years he worked with RKO and was their assistant technical manager.

When one of his great pals, **Stan Perry**, died, a number of good friends got together to collect a sum for the erection of a revolving summer house in the grounds of "Glebelands." Those who knew Frank believe that he would have liked the thought of something similar being done to remember him and while the exact form which the testimonial will take has not yet been decided it is possible that garden furniture or something of that nature for use at "Glebelands" will result.

Those who knew and respected Frank Minns are invited to make a contribution—however modest it may be—to the testimonial in his memory and it has been suggested that cheques should be made payable to the CTBF for it is to the Fund that the monies will eventually go. These cheques should then be sent to **Bill Corbishley** at THE DAILY CINEMA, Film House, 142 Wardour Street.

This is a nice idea which arose as a result of one put forward by **Nick Mole**, sound and projection engineer of ABC. **Len Blay** of Morganite Carbons and, of course, **Bill Corbishley** himself.

● As an important part of the expansion of Cinema International Releasing Organisation, (CIRO), **Bob Smart**, general sales manager of the company,

has been visiting the North of England interviewing salesmen in Leeds, Manchester and Newcastle and setting up a branch office in Leeds. As a break from his crowded programme, Bob attended the dinner dance of the northern branch of the CEA in Newcastle on Wednesday and a meeting of the branch the following morning.

● That industry commentator **Lyn Fairbairn** has taken over BBC Radio 2's hardly annual "Movie Go Round" which has done so much for films over many years. Peter Haigh is one of the programme's leading interviewers, and this Sunday he has the pleasure of introducing our reviewer, **Marjorie Bilbow**, another film enthusiast who appears frequently on the programme.

This Sunday at 3 p.m., Marjorie will be weighing into a discussion of theatre programming which poses the question (raised previously): Are second features necessary? Marjorie points out that second features, as such, are no longer made but the double feature bill represents better value for money to the cinema-goer today—a two for the price of one bargain; and she gives some remarkable examples of films she wouldn't miss but which may not be the top feature in the current release.

Marjorie is always interesting to listen to and film enthusiasts will find her talking this week particularly stimulating.

● Columnist **Neville Nisse** surprised me when he told me he had gone into production and, what's more, had recently completed its direction! It proved to be the birth of his first child, a 6lb 3oz son to be titled Malcolm. "Of course," he said, "the main credit should go to the star, my wife Shula, but she acknowledges my advice and assistance! They're all doing well and he goes as far as adding that "a sequel will be planned in the not too distant future—about two or three years!"

Bill Ingram, former manager of the Gaumont Cinema, Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow, and of other Scottish cinemas, has died in hospital at Glasgow after a short illness.

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HAMMER

the films to be made side by side under the same roof.

Joan Harrison, executive producer of "The Alfred Hitchcock TV Hour," said the writers would all be English, they would be taking stories and adapting them. Two or three would probably be directed by an American but there would be no continuing star but a different international star for each. It would be "a complete anthology."

The stories would be of the "thriller, chiller, suspense" type and they were anxious to meet writers who had suitable material.

Col. Carreras pointed out that the shows would be like the type of picture Hammer had made as features and which had sold well in every territory in the world. Films like "Taste Of Fear" which had recently been seen on British TV.

He said that the idea started about two years ago when Hammer were making features for 20th-Fox. He remarked: "it is not exactly a Rolls-Royce deal but still a big dollar earner for Britain."

Mr. Self said it was very significant that they were not here because of the quota—"we love to do a quota show"—but in Hollywood today we feel there is a growing sophistication about television as there is about movies. The industry is moving into fields of far greater reality. We have looked to Europe for a long time as a way to improve our product and make money.

"This represents several years which came to fruition and pleases all of us. With Miss Harrison doing it we know it will be a quality show in every way."

"Journey To The Unknown" will be produced by British technicians and each film in the series is scheduled to cost approximately 175,000 dollars.

Attending the Press Conference was **Marty Slarger**, vice-president of ABC TV of America, who said they were very proud of this international deal. It is the first time that 20th-Fox, who are very deeply involved in TV in America with nine programmes, have produced a series in the UK.

Stanley Margulies has been signed by David L. Wolper to produce "The Americans Are Coming," a Wolper Pictures Ltd. production for release by United Artists. The picture was formerly titled "Europe, USA."

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UA's highest billings

"The Graduate," and footage from "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang," which is currently shooting at Pinewood Studios.

The new policy of involving sales personnel in publicity activities which were originated by United Artists last December, was reported to be working extremely well and has been the subject of favourable reports from cinema managers.

Mr. Winkles told the conference that as part of the world-wide expansion programme for Transamerica Corporation, of which UA is a part, the current 12 months is expected to bring in the highest ever billings in United Artists' UK operation. The success of Clive Donner's "Here We Go Round The Mulberry Bush" has already proved a great help towards achieving this target.

Another innovation unveiled at the conference was the inclusion of UA's bulletin in the official CEA newsletter, a centre page spread. The bulletin outlines the company's activities in all fields and is to become a regular feature in the newsletters which are sent to all members.

No date for Govt. review

In a Commons reply on Wednesday, the President of the BOfT, **Anthony Crosland**, said he could not yet say when the Government's review of films legislation would be completed but he would consider the desirability of publishing a White Paper in due course.

Answering F. J. Silvester (Conservative), he replied that he had received the views of the film industry trade associations and unions and of the CFC, whose report was published as a White Paper last Thursday. The Government was reviewing the films legislation in the light of those recommendations.

Hugh Jenkins (Labour) has tabled a question for Wednesday 24 April asking whether, in considering the report of the CFC, he will give full consideration to the views of the eight members of the Council who signed a minority report.

Bob Biller, 20-year-old son of famous American playwright **Arthur Miller**, makes his film debut in "The Love Of Ivy," starring Sidney Poitier. A Palomar production opening in London in July, it will be distributed by the newly-formed Cinema International Releasing Organisation.

ROSE

Edited by Marjorie Bilbow

• ROSIE •

Rank. American. 98min. "U." Rel.: 12 May.

Stars: Rosalind Russell, Sandra Dee, Brian Aherne. Prod.: Jacques Mapes. Dir.: David Lowell. Rels.: Sorenplay: Samuel Taylor.

Type of production: Romantic melodrama in Technicolor.

Story outline: Rich, widowed, Rosie Lord lives life to the full, doing things which seem eccentric to her daughters Edith and Mildred, but she's a grandgrudgegr Dupine. Her latest impulse has been to buy a derelict but historic theatre in Los Angeles at a cost of two-and-a-half million dollars. This action infuriates her daughters, and Edith's husband, Cabot Shaw, and they plan to have Rosie certified as insane so that they can get control of her fortune. The plan is overheard by Dupine who runs for help to the office of Rosie's attorney and life-long friend, Oliver Stephenson. Oliver is out of town, and Dupine confides in David Wheelwright, a young lawyer who works for Oliver. David takes on a job as secretary to Rosie, in the hope of restraining her from doing actions that would provide evidence of her madness, but the scheme fails. Rosie is forcibly kidnapped and taken to a mental home. Cabot visits her and promises to keep Rosie locked up unless she signs over her money to her daughters. But Oliver, Dupine and David break into the home and help Rosie to escape. There is a court hearing which looks like going against Rosie until Oliver tells her that he loves her and wants to marry her. She takes the stand to give evidence on her own behalf and tricks her daughters into admitting that she is sane and that they were only after her money. Then Rosie and Oliver announce their plan to marry, to the delight of Dupine and David who also intend to wed.

Rating: Richly sentimental, deliriously unbelievable woman's magazine hokum that will delight its intended audience. Exploitable star attraction for female audiences in the older age groups, particularly if the name of Brian Aherne is not omitted.

Critic's view: Rosalind Russell is such a dish that it's hard to imagine her as the mother of grown-up daughters, let alone having an adult granddaughter. Her daughters, however, are not so good. A bit tired of teenage moppets on the screen and want to identify with someone who admits to age but knocks all the poppies into a cocked hat. There aren't many wags in basic comedy. Best of the good would drive a sports car at top speed but they revel in seeing it done in the same way that chairbound clerks enjoy seeing James Bond master the opposition.

Sandra Dee and James Farentino provide an attractive picture of young love but it is the romance between Rosalind Russell and Brian Aherne's charmer, Brian Aherne, that will wow the mums and grandmamas.

'OPERATION KID BROTHER'

M.B.

United Artists. Italian. 105min. "A." Rel.: 5 May.

Stars: Neil Connery, Daniela Bianchi, Adolfo Celi, Bernard Lee, Lois Maxwell. Prod.: Dario Baidotto. Dir.: Alberto Demattino. Screenplay: Paul Levi, Frank Walker.

Type of production: Gimmick-surew adventure in Technicolor and Techniscope. Tech dialogue.

Story outline: Dr Neil Connery (the actor's real name is used), the younger brother of "a famous British secret agent," gets roped in to help smash an international criminal organisation called Thanatos who propose to capture half the world's gold. Best of the good is Commander Cunningham, who works with his efficient girl secretary, Max. Chief of the baddies is Alpha, his second in command, Beta, and the country has been enrolled by Commander Cunningham because of his abilities as a hypnotist. He is needed to uncover information hidden in the subconscious mind of Yachue, Japanese girl friend of a murdered defector from Thanatos. Although the beautiful

Mildred and Maya, girl friends of Thair, do their best to lure Dr Connery from the path of duty he succeeds in getting a few cryptic words out of her before she is murdered. The clues take him to Thair's palatial home in Morocco where he overhears Thair talking to overthrow Alpha, rule Thanatos, and blow up all his staff. Thair's plan leads Maya to lead him to the headquarters of Thanatos. They fly by helicopter to the Thanatos headquarters in Bavaria, arriving within minutes of the release of a magnetic wave which will paralyse all machinery. Connery penetrates the fortress while Maya goes for help. Connery is captured by Thair and the magnetic wave is released. As a result, Maya is unable to contact London by telephone. But the brilliant doctor, who has been foreseen as a savior to go are a band of archery champions mounted on horseback. The fortress is attacked and destroyed. Beta is shot through the heart by an arrow from Dr Neil Connery's bow. In Monte Carlo, Commander Cunningham is about to discuss another job for his special agent's kid brother, but the doctor uses his hypnotic powers to make the Commander change his mind.

Rating: Frenzied send-up (or is it meant to be taken seriously?) of the Bond films, all "in" jokes, weird and wonderful gadgets, plot extravaganzas, fancy clothes, and less than 60 minutes. No one has yet succeeded in out-Bonding Bond, but the grotesque effrontery with which the attempt is made is oddly disarming. Could someone like the "Batman" series, while the series is still in the discriminating can happily accept the thriller element at its face value.

Critic's view: Neil Connery moves through his scenes with surprising aplomb for someone who's never acted before. But his "kid brother" gimmick is never exploited as fully as it could have been; the mighty disconcerting to hear him braw and bunnie Scottish doctor (and his merry band of Scottish archers) chattering away in (dubbed) American.

Al—But if this had been a better film from top to bottom it might have been a much better chance of being a regular success. At the point at which the ridiculous becomes almost sublime and when it is reached the critic is forced to throw in the towel and holler "Pax!" Maybe in other languages and in other countries this will be accepted as an action-packed thriller. No more. No more. Most British audiences will laugh their heads off. They may, at times, be laughing for the wrong reasons, but who cares?

M.B.

APPEAL OF 'GOSPEL'

Drawing a big response from schools and churches, "The Gospel" According To St. Matthew.

Complete release, is reported to be bringing excellent results to cinema box-offices throughout the country. This international award winning film directed by Pier Paolo Pasolini, now playing to its second week at the Arts, Cambridge, recently scored high figures at the Odeons Bury, Bath, and Bartsley.

Backed by comprehensive publicity campaigns in conjunction with Arrow Publicity Associates, this "U" certificate film has won film festival awards in Milan, Venice, Rome, Lisbon and London. It is now on release at selected situations throughout the UK.

AUDIENCES

Referring to the first stages of market research on the FPA's study of cinema audiences in the UK, director Andrew Filson said on Wednesday that it was expected that the field work would be done in May and they expected to have a report in their hands at the end of July.

ICE CREAM PRICES . . .

Announcing changes in the recommended retail prices of a selected number of brands, due to the new rate of Purchase Tax at 20 per cent, Wall's Ice Cream state that in the cinema the present 9d Wall's products will go up to 1s but no change will be made in the existing 1s 3d range.

Road shows: FPA to seek trade views

The FPA Executive Committee has decided to seek a meeting with the KRS and the major circuits for a discussion of the road show concerning UK road show cinema.

Pointing out that the committee concerned had not reached any firm conclusions, FPA director Andrew Filson said they thought it premature to do so without getting more facts and they hoped their market research would help to some extent.

As part of their fact finding they would like to have a meeting with the KRS and the major circuits to find out the situation as they saw it.

SUPPORTING PROGRAMMES

After hearing a progress report on renewed studies of problems related to British second features, the FPA Executive Committee has decided "not to comment meantime on proposals to alter the definition of a low cost long film for levy purposes." It was intimated at Wednesday's Press conference that consideration was now being given to the larger problem of supporting programmes and the sub-committee was meeting later this month.

This Year's Retrospective at the Berlin International Film Festival will be dealing with Ernst Lubitsch's most successful talking pictures.

CARRY ON DOCTOR — WATSON !

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Correspondence

AN IDEA TO AID CTBF

Dear Sir—I have been reading your current issue, dated 1 April, and the fact that the Tombola at the Academy Award function was a disappointment as regards real claim for the CTBF.

I claim no credit for the idea, but my son Robert suggested to me the other day that in his opinion it was time the Trade gave up Tombolas, raffle tickets and the use of other activities that are run to support our own benevolent fund.

When one considers that if one-tenth of a penny per admission was put aside, it would mean well over £100,000 a year, and surely this would be a proper start, to which could be added, of course, the efforts of the Television Industry.

In this way, funds would be secure for some years ahead, and I am wondering what the various leaders of the industry think about the idea.

Yours sincerely,

For:
Cheshire County Cinemas Ltd.,

R. H. GODFREY,
Joint Managing Director.

FPA ANNUAL REPORT

At its meeting on Tuesday, the FPA Executive Committee approved the annual report for submission to the members in general meeting on 30 April and issue to the Press in due course. Stating that a great amount of time was taken at the meeting on the annual report, FPA director Andrew Filson observed that it provided a very good opportunity of looking back on the year's work.

'MILLIE' CAPTIVATES EVERYWHERE

Universal's "Thoroughly Modern Millie" continued in spanking style in its 24th week at the Odeon, St. Martin's Lane. Public demand is such that tickets remain at a premium for this picture, the most successful in the 56-year history of Universal Studios.

"Millie" is still playing to around 11 capacity houses a week at the Odeon and tucked away in advance bookings is the princely sum of £20,000.

Similar news from other situations in Britain and Ireland exemplifies the universal appeal of this colourful and vastly entertaining picture. Distributed by RFD, it is now in its 15th week in both Leeds and Manchester. It has played for 12 weeks in Dublin and Sheffield and for eight weeks in Liverpool, Cardiff, and at the Odeons Birmingham and Newcastle. "Millie" is also playing a money-spinning tune in its sixth week in Nottingham and Leicester and its fourth weeks in Hull and Bristol. It has had excellent runs of 11 weeks in Southampton, ten weeks in Portsmouth, nine weeks in Belfast, eight weeks in Plymouth and seven weeks in Swansea.

Compton to handle 'A Penny'

Donovan Winters says that he has withdrawn his film "A Penny For Your Thoughts" from Gafa Film Distributors by mutual agreement and has handed it over to the Compton Group.

"I am extremely happy to resume a working relationship with Alan Kean whom I have known since his years at Anglo Amalgamated, when he was responsible for distributing my first two shorts," said Mr Winter. "Again, when he moved to BLC he was responsible for handling two more of my films. I have every confidence in his ability to sell this film."

"A Penny For Your Thoughts" was an invited entry to the Venice, Sydney and San Francisco Film Festivals, and enjoyed a 13-week run at the Cameo-Royal, Charing Cross Road. Although accepted for showing by both main circuits, it has since been awaiting the right "X" certificate top feature to programme it with.

The Trent Motor Traction Company has applied for a licence to operate a special Sunday bus service for Derby's Indian followers.



J. A. JENKINS, known affectionately throughout the industry as "Dinkie," has been appointed Cardiff branch manager of Cinerama International Releasing Organisation. He will cover the South Wales and West of England territory and has already begun work for the company. One of the most experienced men on the sales side in the industry, he began in shipping in Oslo and Copenhagen but transferred to the film side when he joined Cinerama soon after its inception in 1934. After four years' war service he returned to Columbia and was branch manager from 1947 to 1961. Subsequently he was with BLC and for a short period with Anglo Amalgamated.

First Royal premiere ever held in Wales

Cyril Edgar has been inundated with requests for charity premieres of the new Walt Disney musical-comedy "The Happiest Millionaire," which opened for a season at the Odeon, Haymarket, yesterday and will be seen in selected cities soon.

Tonight will see the first royal premiere ever to be held in Wales (at the Capitol, Cardiff). In aid of the NSPCC the premiere will be attended by Princess Margaret, its president. Lord Snowdon is expected to accompany his wife, and one of the film's stars, Tommy Steele, a long-time friend of the NSPCC, will present a cheque representing the proceeds from this evening's event.

Meanwhile, in London, charity showings of the film have been arranged on behalf of the Norfolk Orphanage (8 April) and the Jewish National Fund (9 April).

"The Happiest Millionaire," a vibrant musical, stars Fred MacMurray, Tommy Steele, Grace Garson and Geraldine Page. Advance bookings at the Odeon, Haymarket, presage that it is in for a long and successful run in the West End.

Trade Shows

TUESDAY 9 April

A Dandy In Asple (Columbia), Private Theatre, 10.30.

WEDNESDAY 10 April

Woman Times Seven (Twentieth Century-Fox), Rialto Cinema, 10.30.

For Registration

16 APRIL

One Short: Adolescence (Contemporary), Academy Cinema, 2.0.

22 APRIL

Mining Review No. 9 (21st Year) (Data), Celluloid Theatre, 10.30.

25 APRIL

I Need A Woman (Miracle), Wardour Preview Theatre, 10.30.

The Pleasures Of The Bath (Miracle), Wardour Preview Theatre, 2.30.

AMENDED TIME

"So This Is God's Country?", claimed to be the most daring satire recorded on film, has been amended with a new running time of 65 minutes. This Technicolor/Techniscope feature distributed by Compton, with an "A" certificate, is now on release.

Negotiations have been concluded between Ted Mann and Columbia Pictures for the production of "The Exhibitionist" by Henry Sutton.

SITUATIONS VACANT

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RANK RECORD HALF-YEAR

Taxation based thereon (including UK Corporation Tax at 42½ per cent—1967 40 per cent): RO, £1,098,000; RX, £5,733,000; total, £6,831,000 (£7,111,000); £3,994,000; £4,705,000).

Profit after taxation: RO, £1,221,000; RX, £6,703,000; total, £7,924,000; (£962,000); £4,922,000; £5,884,000).

Outside shareholders' share of Subsidiaries' profits: RO, £170,000; RX, £4,334,000; total, £4,504,000 (£161,000); £3,119,000; £3,280,000).

Profit after taxation (excluding non-trading and special items) attributable to the Members of The Rank Organisation Limited: RO, £1,051,000; RX, £2,369,000; total, £3,420,000 (£801,000); £1,803,000; £2,604,000).

Gross Dividends of The Rank Organisation Limited. On Preference Shares for the half year to 31 December: £416,000 (£416,000).

Interim on Ordinary and 'A' Ordinary Shares. Rate: 9½ per cent (5.7 pence per share); (£9 per cent (5.4 pence per share)). **Amount:** £1,540,000 (£1,261,000).

Ordinary and 'A' Ordinary Shares in issue at end of period: £6,832,000 (£56,036,000).

Earnings per Ordinary and 'A' Ordinary Share: Sterling, 11.1 pence (9.3 pence); US Dollars, (Exchange Rate £1=\$2.40) 11.1 cents (Exchange Rate £1=\$2.80, 10.9 cents).

In his statement Mr Davis had this to say about DEVALUATION: "I am sure that shareholders will be interested to know the effect of devaluation on our activities."

"(a) It has been the practice of The Rank Organisation for many years to convert overseas assets and liabilities at mid-market rates ruling at the year end. This basis (called the 'closing rate' method) will continue to apply to all Group Companies other than Rank Xerox and its subsidiaries."

"Accounting convention in the United States of America requires American Companies who file their financial statements with the Securities and Exchange Commission (S.E.C.) to adopt the "historic rate" method of converting assets and liabilities of overseas subsidiaries and this basis will be used in converting the Rank Xerox Accounts into US dollars for inclusion in the accounts of Xerox Corporation. Either basis is acceptable in the United Kingdom and, to avoid possible confusion, the "historic rate" basis has been adopted in both countries."

"The adoption of the 'historic rate' involves the conversion of

overseas fixed assets and long-term liabilities at rates of exchange ruling at the time the assets were acquired or liabilities incurred as opposed to using year-end mid-market rates under the 'closing rate' method."

"(b) The bases used in converting overseas Group profits earned in the period to 18 November 1967, the date of devaluation of sterling, are as follows:

- (i) The Group other than Rank Xerox — at post-devaluation rates.
- (ii) Rank Xerox and subsidiaries — at rates ruling prior to devaluation.

"(c) The effect of devaluation on the interim results above has not been material. As regards the Organisation, excluding Rank Xerox, the effect of devaluation on trading profits for the full year to June 1968 will also not be material, but the trading profits of Rank Xerox, a substantial proportion of which are earned overseas, will be appreciably improved."

"(d) The accounts for the full year to 29 June 1968 will also include special surpluses arising from devaluation which will not be included as normal trading income."

"3. **Highlights.** Many activities of the Organisation are subject to differing seasonal fluctuations; consequently it is undesirable to show the breakdown of the results for the half year, as they could be misleading."

"The highlights of the half year have been:

"Loan stocks—the successful conversion of a large portion of the three Unsecured Loan Stocks."

"Rights have been exercised as follows: Between 1 October and 9 December 1967 £7,695,529—6 per cent Unsecured Loan Stock 1983/88, £26,711—6½ per cent Unsecured Loan Stock 1975/79 leaving outstanding £222,516 and £54,336 respectively."

"Between 15 October and 15 November 1967, £7,981,159—6½ per cent Unsecured Loan Stock 1988/93 leaving outstanding £4,518,841."

"There were issued in exchange £7,966,694 'A' Ordinary Shares of 5/- each in the Company."

"In the case of the following Stocks further options may be exercised: 6½ per cent Unsecured Loan Stock 1988/93, between 15 October and 15 November, in 1968 at the rate of 46 'A' Ordinary Shares for each £100 Stock; in 1969 at the rate of 42 'A' Ordinary Shares for each £100 Stock."

6½ per cent Unsecured Loan Stock 1975/79, between 1 October

and 9 December, in 1968 at the rate of 68 'A' Ordinary Shares for each £100 Stock; in 1969 at the rate of 65 'A' Ordinary Shares for each £100 Stock."

"These conversions have an important effect on our balance sheet as in total nearly £16 million of loan capital have been converted into share capital and share premium account and have led to a saving of interest in the 28 weeks of some £500,000. Unfortunately this saving was largely offset by the increased interest charges which we have had to bear on our trading credit facilities, as a result of the high Bank Rate."

"Rank Taylor Hobson's manufacturing activities in the precision instrument and lens fields have, as we anticipated, not done so well as in the previous outstanding year, owing to a fall-off in orders, but I am glad to say there has been some improvement in the order position in recent weeks."

"Rank Bush Murphy and Top Rank Television have made a useful contribution to our profits."

"Electronics Division has further reduced the level of its trading loss. There is little doubt the Division will show a small profit for the full year."

"Cinema audiences for the half-year are almost exactly comparable with those of a year ago."

"Hotel operation. As we forecast, a substantial loss has been incurred. The Royal Lancaster Hotel was opened on 1 August 1967 and the inevitable heavy start-up costs were incurred, but the operation as a whole is making some progress."

"It should be remembered that the basis we adopt in our hotel activities is that from the day we open an hotel all costs are subsequently charged to revenue as incurred. This is a conservative approach, but one we believe to be right."

"Rank Xerox has continued to expand at a rapid rate, which expansion is reflected in the figures. We believe this expansion will continue."

"4. **Taxation.** The charge for Corporation Tax has increased from 40 per cent to 42½ per cent and this increase has been reflected in our figures."

"5. **Dividends.** If it had not been for the dividend restriction in the National Budget we would have made an increase of 1 per cent in the Interim Dividend and would have hoped to recommend at least an equivalent increase in the final dividend. If, however, the dividend freeze is strictly interpreted, the total dividend for the year may have to be

restricted to a maximum of 22½ per cent (i.e. an increase of 3½ per cent over last year's dividend of 22 per cent).

"In these circumstances the directors have raised the Interim Dividend by ½ per cent to 9½ per cent."

"6. **Conclusion.** All in all, bearing in mind the general economic conditions, a satisfactory start to the current financial year."

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FPA CONCERNED AT SET DELAY

meeting on Tuesday, was reminded that the FPA had been led to expect that the Ministry of Labour Review Committee, which is considering anomalies in the application of the tax, would report in September or October 1967. In spite of repeated enquiries, the FPA had received no indication of the progress, if any, being made by the Review Committee."

"Film production was ludicrously classified as service rather than as a manufacturing process; this tax has been inequitably applied to film production; it is intolerable that remedial action has been so long delayed," the FPA stated after Tuesday's meeting."

"This is actually scandalous," FPA director Andrew Wilson commented at Wednesday's Press conference. The increase alone was rubbing salt on an unjust wound and it was a further insult when they were concerned with it. It was thoroughly wrong that the tax should be applied to film production. It was ridiculous to call them a service and not a manufacturing industry. They had repeatedly asked concerning progress by the Review Committee and had still heard nothing about the Committee's intention to report or what the report would say about the film production industry."

The position was really inexcusable and they would be considering the matter very seriously indeed for further action if they did not get a favourable report in April."

QUESTIONS ON NFRC

Conservative MP F. J. Silvester is to ask the President of the BofI on Monday 8 April, whether he will give an assurance that he will retain the National Film Finance Corporation as an agency of support for the British film industry. On the same day, he is also to ask the President whether, in order to assist the forward planning of independent British films upon which his policy has a direct bearing, he will publish his proposals for the future development of the NFRC in advance of his more extensive legislative proposals on the film industry."